



Preface

The European workshop *From Gene to Functional Protein* on cloning, expression, refolding and purification of recombinant proteins, in conjunction with *the European Contest for Young Scientists*, took place in Paris, June 10–11, 2002. The French capital, with its famous universities and with the Pasteur Institute close to the meeting venue, again proved to be a fine choice for this event. Many took the opportunity to explore the sights during the evening.

The aim of this two-day workshop was to provide a forum for presenting and discussing the development of efficient methods and purification schemes for obtaining pure and homogeneous proteins. The meeting was organised by a scientific committee comprising Ass. Prof. Dr. Darcy Birse (University of Stockholm, Sweden), Prof. Dr. Johannes Buchner (Technical University of München, Germany), Prof. Dr. Chris Fuller (University of Cambridge, UK), Prof. Dr. Rainer Jaenicke (University of Regensburg, Germany) and Dr. Bengt Österlund (Amersham Biosciences, Sweden). More than 300 scientists from 15 countries used this opportunity to contribute with presentations and discussion. One purpose of the workshop was to allow young researchers to practice giving scientific presentations in front of a large audience. Participants also had the opportunity to meet other scientists and to exchange experience and knowledge in an informal environment. The friendly atmosphere encouraged networking and relaxed scientific exchange.

The workshop hosted the final round of the European Contest for Young Scientists. Those young scientists having passed the qualifying round presented their work either orally or as a poster. Forty-two contributions were accepted. The presentations described methods for obtaining pure and homoge-

neous proteins from various sources utilising recombinant techniques. The overall goal was to describe methods which are reproducible and suitable for systematic production of pure protein, and to cover approaches used for cloning, cell growth, cell lysis, refolding (if applied), purification, characterisation and purity control. The presentations highlighted novel uses of current technologies and contributed to their further development.

The contributions competed for a total of 10 prizes, granted by Amersham Biosciences Europe GmbH. The prizes went to: 1. Christian Epp, University of Heidelberg, Germany (3,000 EUR), 2. An Willems, University of Gent, Belgium (2,000 EUR), 3. Muriel Masi, INSERM Marseille, France (1,250 EUR), 4. Martin Haslbeck, Technical University München, Germany (750 EUR), 5–10. (no ranking, listed alphabetically) Joanne Brennan, Dublin City University, Ireland; Laurent Favre, Hôpital Orthopédique Lausanne, Switzerland; Heikki Lanckriet, University of Cambridge, UK; Maria Maguire, University College London, UK; Simon Sauter, University of Jena, Germany; Harald Wegele, Technical University of München, Germany (500 EUR each).

The contributions and program were grouped in sessions focussing on protein expression, fusion proteins and complexes, refolding challenges, process development applications, membrane proteins and protein purification strategies. The poster session and the evening reception gave the attendees time to network and continue discussions. A boat trip organised for all contestants the evening of the 9th, added a welcome social aspect to the event and set the tone for a fruitful meeting.

I wish to thank the Scientific Committee for their efforts and time in establishing an excellent scientific

program and for chairing the two days. Isabelle Henry I would like to thank for the perfect organisation of the event, and Ursula Franz, Isabelle Gouin and Jacqelijne Van den Berg for handling all the arrangements before and during the workshop. My thanks to Amersham Biosciences Europe GmbH,

whose support and sponsorship made this meeting possible. Finally, I want to thank all who participated and shared their knowledge of successful strategies for obtaining functional protein.

Freiburg, Germany

Michael Kaleja